

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Department of Employment Services

MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR



DEBORAH A. CARROLL
DIRECTOR

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Media Contact: Crystal Davis

(202) 671-1163 (O)

(202) 423-0508 (C)

Washington Metropolitan Area Adds 18,300 Jobs in May *Washington Metro Division's Unemployment Rate at 4.8 Percent*

(Washington, DC) - The District of Columbia Department of Employment Services (DOES) reported today that the preliminary May job estimates show an increase of 18,300 jobs for a total of 2,594,000 jobs in the Washington Metropolitan Division. The private sector increased by 17,500 jobs, while the public sector gained 800 jobs. The Washington Metropolitan Division's not seasonally adjusted May 2015 unemployment rate was 4.8 percent, which is down 0.4 percentage points from the April rate of 4.4 percent.

Over-the-Month Area Civilian Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Data

The total civilian labor force in the Washington Metropolitan Division for May 2015 was 2,621,600, of which 2,497,100 were employed and 124,500 were unemployed. The unemployment rate was 4.8 percent. The total civilian labor force in the Suburban Ring of the communities surrounding the District of Columbia was 2,913,500, of which 2,785,500 were employed and 127,900 were unemployed. The unemployment rate for this area was 4.4 percent. In the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes the Washington Metropolitan Division and the Bethesda-Gaithersburg-Frederick, Maryland Metropolitan Division, the civilian labor force was 3,293,700, of which 3,140,300 were employed and 153,400 were unemployed. The unemployment rate for this area was 4.7 percent. For the month, the unemployment rates for the Washington Metropolitan Division, the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area and the Suburban Ring increased by 0.4 percentage points each.

Over-the-Year Area Civilian Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment Data

The Washington Metropolitan Division's civilian labor force increased over the year by 22,900, while the number of employed increased by 32,200, and the number of unemployed decreased by 9,400. The civilian labor force for the Suburban Ring increased over the year by 19,900, while the number of employed increased by 28,800, and the number of unemployed decreased by 9,000. Meanwhile, the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area's civilian labor force increased by 27,900, while the number of employed increased by 38,800 and the number of unemployed decreased by 10,900. For the year, the unemployment rates for the Washington Metropolitan Division decreased by 0.4 percentage points, while the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area and the Suburban Area decreased by 0.3 percentage points each.

Metropolitan Division's Job Growth

Total wage and salary employment in the Washington Metropolitan Division increased over the month by 18,300 jobs. The private sector increased by 17,500 jobs, and the public sector increased by 800 jobs over the month. Six private sectors along with the local government had over-the-month job gains. Job gains were registered in professional and business services, which gained (6,300 jobs); other services gained (700 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities gained (1,100 jobs); mining, logging and construction gained (3,600 jobs); leisure and hospitality gained (5,800 jobs); and information gained (800 jobs). Two private sectors along with the federal and state government had over-the-month job losses. Job loss was registered in financial activities which lost (300 jobs); and educational and health services lost (500 jobs). Meanwhile, manufacturing had no over-the-month change in jobs. Government overall gained (800 jobs) over the month. State government lost (1,700 jobs), while the federal government decreased by (1,100 jobs), and the local government increased by (3,600 jobs).

During the last 12 months, employment in the Washington Metropolitan Division increased by 49,800 jobs. The private sector added 44,200 jobs, while the public sector gained 5,600 jobs. Professional and business services reported the greatest year-over growth, up 19,700 jobs. Five other private sector industries along with the federal, state and local government posted year-over job gains: Educational and health services up (11,200 jobs); mining, logging and construction up (4,900 jobs); trade, transportation and utilities up (8,100 jobs); other services up (1,000 jobs); and leisure and hospitality up (3,800 jobs). Manufacturing recorded the greatest year-over downturn, down 1,700 jobs. Two other private sector industries posted year-over job losses: information down (1,700 jobs); and financial activities down (1,100 jobs).

Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area Explanations

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division includes: The District of Columbia, Virginia Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Manassas, Manassas Park and the Virginia Counties of Arlington, Clarke, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudon, Prince William, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Warren, Rappahannock and Culpeper; the Maryland Counties of Calvert, Charles, and Prince Georges; and the West Virginia County of Jefferson.

The estimates for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area will be the summation of the estimates for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Division (contained in this release) and the Bethesda-Gaithersburg-Frederick, MD Metropolitan Division (to be released by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation).

Data reflects the 2014 annual benchmark revisions.

Attachments